

Parent Advisory

Milpitas Sister Cities Commission



City of Dagupan, Philippines A City of Milpitas Sister City Student and Cultural Exchange

This exchange offers our high school students the opportunity to experience Filipino culture, history, and family life. In return, our students share American culture, history, and family life with a visiting student from Dagupan.

Background

The City of Dagupan is located in the northwestern Philippines, on the island of Luzon, Pangasinan Province, an approximate three-hour drive from Manila, and has a resident population of 134,000.

On April 15, 2003, the City of Milpitas established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a two-year sister city relationship with the City of Dagupan, Philippines. The MOU includes exchanges to encourage and foster goodwill and friendship visits of city officials and/or members of City of Milpitas and Dagupan commissions, Dagupan City Association, and residents of Milpitas and Dagupan.

On April 5, 2005, the City of Milpitas extended the MOU for an additional two-years with agreement between the cities to explore expanding the initial focus area to include cultural and student exchanges.

Starting a Student Exchange

The Milpitas and Dagupan Sister Cities Commissions have explored expanding activities to a student exchange at the high school level. While still under discussion, proposed visit dates are:

- Dagupan Students visit Milpitas: May 15 – 27, 2006
- Milpitas Students visit Dagupan: February 17 - 25, 2007

Elements of a Student Exchange

The commissions are interested in providing a sampling of home, school, and social interaction. There is also a desire for Dagupan students to visit colleges in the Bay Area, a wonderful opportunity for students to ponder opportunities beyond the high school experience.

Expectations & Costs

Milpitas Sister Cities Commissioners, MUSD administrators and teachers, would act as chaperones and accompany 10 to 12 student delegates.

Parents are advised that students are viewed as “Junior Ambassadors”, are expected to act with dignity and kindness, and are required to attend all ceremonial functions. Orientation session attendance is required.

As part of the exchange, students that travel to the Philippines shall host a high school student from Dagupan when these students visit Milpitas. The Milpitas student’s family shall welcome the visiting student into their home to share an American family’s home life and traditions. The hosting family is expected to provide excursions for the visiting student to local points of interest beyond those scheduled as part of the exchange itinerary.

Estimated student cost of the 2006 trip to the Philippines is \$1,300. Adult chaperones should budget approximately \$1,500. This estimate includes international airfare, land transportation, accommodations in Dagupan, meals, and tour. This estimate does not include gifts and souvenir shopping.

Regarding gifts, it is customary for visitors to present token gifts to host families and dignitaries. This is not expected to be an unreasonable cost to parents and you will be advised how to best provide gifts for your student to present. In addition, the City of Milpitas provides an official city gift, usually presented at a ceremony to Dagupan dignitaries by a Milpitas elected or appointed official.

Contact Information

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